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INFO SUBJECT:

Position at Ordinary Administrative Radio Conference of International Telecommunication Union regarding High Frequency Allocations

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Reference is made to the Department's CA-9111, April 22, 1959, transmitting the U.S.A. proposals to the Ordinary Administrative Radio Conference (OARC) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) which is to convene in Geneva August 17. This will be the first such conference since Atlantic City in 1947. The agenda of the conference includes a complete review of the ITU Radio Regulations of which the International Table of Frequency Allocations is a part. This Table represents the division or apportionment of radio spectrum space to the different radio Services, such as aeronautical, broadcasting, maritime, amateur and fixed. The aforementioned Atlantic City Conference of 1947 had considerable difficulty in agreeing to the allocation of radio spectrum space, particularly in the portion of the radio spectrum which is most useful for long distance communications, i.e., approximately 4 - 25 megacycles per second (Mc/s). Nevertheless, agreement was reached and the Atlantic City 1947 allocations have since come into general use, although only after a number of special radio conferences were held to deal with the difficult problems involved in implementing the Atlantic City decisions.

Our experience with the Atlantic City allocations to date has indicated a definite improvement (as regards interference between individual radio stations and as regards spectrum utilization efficiency) over the situation that prevailed prior to bringing the Atlantic City allocations into use. The expenses incidental to the attainment of this situation were considerable. They include not only the costs of the several special and regional

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conferences which were necessary to work out the details of the procedure agreed at the Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference (Geneva, 1951) for bringing into use the Atlantic City allocations, but also the very great expenses borne by the various operating agencies whose frequency usage had to be adjusted or completely changed. Any changes to the Atlantic City allocations in the 4 - 25 Mc/s portion of the radio spectrum could have the effect of negating the accomplishments just recently attained. Since the very great and costly task of adjusting to the 1947 allocations was not generally completed until very recently, it is our view that considerably more experience should be had with the Atlantic City allocations in this portion of the radio spectrum before changes are considered. For these reasons, we have indicated in our proposals to the 1959 Radio Conference that we would not be in favor of changes in the distribution of radio spectrum space to the several radio Services in the "long distance" portion of the radio spectrum between approximately 4 and 25 Mc/s.

It is requested that you bring this amplification of our proposals to the attention of the responsible officials of the Government to which you are accredited and emphasize that we would attach great importance to and be most appreciative of a statement of the specific views of the host country on this very important subject. If that Government intends to propose changes in allocations in this portion of the radio spectrum or to support any possible changes proposed by other countries, we would study the details of any such proposals with a view to rendering our comments at the earliest practicable date. It is requested that your report to the Department on this subject be made not later than June 15, if possible.

Attention New Delhi: Please transmit a copy of this instruction to appropriate authorities of Nepal.

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